

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 MCE-00
EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 SES-02 SAA-01 /097 W
-----065662 211624Z /50

P R 211334Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1206
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
HQ USAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15132

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, GW, IS, US
SUBJECT: ISRAELI-PROPOSED SALE TO GERMANY

REFS: (A) STATE 136061 DTG 301132Z MAY 78
(B) STATE 204945 DTG 141534Z AUG 78

HG USAF FOR LEF

SUMMARY

THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL DID NOT MAKE FORMAL APPROACH REGARDING DROP TANK SALE TO FRG UNTIL MIDDLE JULY. AT THAT TIME FMOD REQUESTED ITS BUDGET AND PLANNING STAFF TO EXAMINE VARIOUS OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR DROP TANK PROCUREMENT. THIS STUDY IS STILL IN PROGRESS AND NO FIRM FRG DECISION HAS BEEN MADE REGARDING PURCHASE. IN INTERIM USG LOA EXTENTION REQUESTED BY FRG WAS DENIED. FRG SOURCES INDICATE THAT IF AT THE CONCLUSION OF FRG STUDY USG IS CHOSEN AS SUPPLIER, A NEW LOA WOULD BE SUBMITTED. RECENT FRG INTEREST HAS SHIFTED TO NEW USG IMPROVED AND PRODUCED CENTER LINE 600-GALLON EXTERNAL
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FUEL TANKS. END SUMMARY.

1. ODC MADE INITIAL CONTACT WITH FMOD ON RECEIPT OF REFTTEL A. AT THAT JUNCTURE FMOD OFFICERS INDICATED A LACK OF AWARENESS OF ANY ISRAELI DROP TANK SALE OFFER.
2. THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL MADE FORMAL APPROACH TO

FRG IN JULY WITH ITS OFFER TO SELL THE FRG 1000 370-
GALLON AND 1000 600 GALLON F-4 DROP TANKS. FMOD RE-
QUESTED THEIR BUDGET AND PLANNING STAFF TO EXAMINE THE
VARIOUS OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR DROP TANK PROCUREMENT:

- (A) PROCUREMENT THROUGH GERMAN INDUSTRY
- (B) PROCUREMENT THROUGH USG SECURITY ASSISTANCE
CHANNELS (FMS).
- (C) PROCUREMENT FROM THE GOI

POINT OF CONTACT IN FMOD STATED THAT PRELIMINARY
COST ESTIMATES WOULD PROBABLY RULE OUT OPTION A FOR PRO-
CUREMENT OF DROP TANKS FROM GERMAN INDUSTRY. SOURCE
ALSO INDICATED THAT FMOD BUDGET AND PLANNING STAFF IS
REQUIRED TO SELECT THE BEST OFFER POSSIBLE, AND NOT
NECESSARILY THE CHEAPEST. ACCORDINGLY, THE FMOD RE-
QUESTED AN EXTENSION DATE OF ORIGINAL USG LOA TO ALLOW
TIME FOR COMPLETION OF THE FMOD STUDY AND THE PROCURE-
MENT DECISION.

3. ON 5 JULY 1978, ODC-AF RECEIVED A LETTER FROM FMOD
RUE II/3 REQUESTING AN EXTENSION FOR LETTER OF OFFER
CONCERNING FMS CASE GY-D-BAS (EXTERNAL FUEL TANKS). IN
ITS LETTER FMOD STATED, QUOTE: DUE TO VARIOUS REASONS,
THE FMOD IS UNFORTUNATELY NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT CASE
GY-D-BAS BY 24 JULY 1978. SINCE FINANCING AND COST EF-
FECTIVENESS ANALYSIS WILL PRESUMABLY STILL TAKE SOME
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TIME, EXTENSION OF THE ACCEPTANCE DATE IS REQUESTED

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-----065664 211624Z /50
P R 211334Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1207
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15132

UNTIL 31 JANUARY 1979. UNQUOTE.

4. ON 25 JULY 1978, THE INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CENTER, WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB, OH ADVISED ODC-AF TO INFORM FMOD THAT THEIR REQUEST FOR EXTENSION DATE OF LOA FOR F-4 EXTERNAL FUEL TANKS WAS DENIED. REASON GIVEN WAS THAT ORIGINAL LOA WAS BASED ON CURRENT PRICE AND AVAILABILITY (P&A) DATA AND THAT REQUESTED EXTENSION DATE WOULD INVALIDATE THE ORIGINAL P&A DATA.

5. FMOD WAS ADVISED ON 26 JULY 1978 OF DENIAL OF REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF ORIGINAL F-4 EXTERNAL FUEL TANK LOA. ON 8 AUGUST 1978 FMOD WAS PASSED OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF CANCELLATION OF LOA WITHOUT ACCEPTANCE AND THE CASE WAS CLOSED BY THE USG.

6. ALTHOUGH THE FMOD CONVEYED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE DENIAL OF THEIR REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF THE SUSPENSE DATE, FMOD SOURCE INDICATED THAT HE HAD EXPECTED THE USG DECISION. SOURCE INDICATED THAT SHOULD FMOD DECIDE AT CONFIDENTIAL

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LATER DATE IN FULFILLING GAF EXTERNAL FUEL TANKS REQUIREMENT WITH THE USG, THEY WOULD SUBMIT A NEW REQUEST FOR LETTER OF OFFER.

7. DURING OUR LAST CONTACT WITH FMOD ON AUGUST 15, WE LEARNED THAT THE BUDGET AND PLANNING STAFF STUDY HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED AND NO FIRM DECISION ON DROP TANK PROCUREMENT HAS BEEN MADE.

8. ADDITIONALLY, WE WERE INFORMED THAT DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS THE GAF HAS BECOME INTERESTED IN USG PRODUCED IMPROVED CENTERLINE 600-GALLON EXTERNAL FUEL TANKS FOR F-4 AIRCRAFT. SINCE THIS IS A NEW DEVELOPMENT, IT MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE OVERALL EXTERNAL FUEL TANK ISSUE TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR.

9. ODC WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THIS

TOPIC AND PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING FRG INTENTIONS AS THEY BECOME KNOWN.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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